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line 6, replace "second" with --first--; and

line 7, replace "third" with --second--.

- In claim 13, line 9, replace "calculating" with --estimating--.

- In claim 14, line 8, replace "calculating" with --estimating--; and

line 31, delete "revolution", insert --between an input and an output revolution speeds-- after "ratio", and replace "a" (second occurrence) with --said--.

- In claim 21, line 25, insert --of a torque converter of said automatic transmission-- before "is"; and

line 27, replace "a" with --said--.

- In claim 22, line 24, delete "the";

line 25, replace "characteristic" with --characteristics--;

line 27, insert --said-- after "on", and replace "an" with --the--;

line 29, insert --of said torque converter of said automatic transmission-- before "is"; and

line 31, insert --said-- before "torque" (first occurrence), and replace "a" with --said--.

2. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

2.1 Claims 5, 14, and 21-22 are allowable because the combination of the means/step for estimating the output torque by one of two alternative methods as respectively recited in the claims, depending on whether the ratio between the input and output speeds of the torque

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converter is greater than a predetermined value, with the other limitations of the respective claims is deemed to have not been taught by the cited prior art.

**2.2** Claims 6-7 are allowable because the combination of a neural network, which receives throttle opening and vehicle acceleration values to estimate weight of a vehicle for selecting a gear position of the automatic transmission, with the other limitations of the claims is deemed to have not been taught by the cited prior art.

**2.3** Claim 13 is allowable because the combination of means for estimating the vehicle weight based on the throttle valve opening and vehicle speed in addition to the acceleration of the vehicle with the other limitations of the claim is deemed to have not been taught by the cited prior art.

**2.4** Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably **accompany** the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

**3.** Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Collin W. Park, whose telephone number is (703)305-9754. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Teska, can be reached on (703)305-9704. The fax phone number for this Group is (703)308-5358.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-9600.

August 31, 1995

*Collin W. Park*  
COLLIN W. PARK  
PATENT EXAMINER  
GROUP 2300